

# PAW

Bitter Root Humane Association

# PRINTS

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Issue 2

Volume 11,  
Spring 2011



**Bitter Root Humane Association is the recipient of the 2010 Chamber of Commerce Community Asset Award!**

Shelter hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri - 1-6pm; Wed - CLOSED; Sat - noon-5pm; Sun - 2-5pm



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# Is it Spring yet?

It is my pleasure to introduce Teresa Loya, Ravalli County Animal Control Officer. The Ravalli County Animal Protection Board has worked long and hard to secure this position and guide the hiring of our first animal control officer in Ravalli County. And what an incredible choice was made. Teresa has already proven to be an excellent partner with the shelter to secure the wellbeing of animals in Ravalli County. The most notable change has been the open, excellent communication between the shelter and Teresa's office and Dispatch and the Sheriff's Office. When an animal is lost, hurt, endangered, found, impounded, rescued the word circulates between all agencies ever so quickly. This rapid response enhances public health and safety as well as the safety of the animals in our care or the care of an officer. When all agencies coordinate together, potential disease control is maintained as well as immediate safety to the public. BRHA is thrilled to have Teresa and her 'can do' attitude working for animal safety in the valley. Her love for animals shows as well as her strong qualifications in working with the public and animals in all situations.

We asked Teresa to say hello and describe her her position to BRHA readers.

*Hello Members of BRHA. I am so glad to meet you via the newsletter. My name is Officer Teresa Loya and I am Ravalli County's new Animal Control Officer. This is to introduce myself and tell you about my job and what services I provide.*

*Many people ask me what Animal Control Officers do. The overall goal is working to protect animals and members of the community. That means I work with strays, injured animals, dog bites cases, abused or neglected animals and unwanted pets. I enforce the county laws regarding animals at large, vicious/dangerous dogs, dog bites and oversee the dog licensing program. In general, as an animal control officer, I play a critical role in the direct care of animals and assist the Sheriff's department with animal cruelty and neglect cases.*

*A large part of my job is dealing with the public. I answer questions and give advice on County and State laws. It is very rewarding to me to help find solutions to problems, as most complaints are between neighbors or family members. Therefore, it is important to me to communicate effectively with members of the community about the welfare of animals. The job can be physically and emotionally taxing. Seeing abused or unwanted animals day after day can be stressful for anyone, but I believe that holding a higher purpose, the welfare of people and animals of this county, overcomes any stresses of the job.*

*I was hired on January 3 of this year and work for the Sheriff's office. I received training for a month through the Sheriff's office, accompanying deputies on calls, to learn operations, procedures, and laws. In February, I attended the National Animal Control Training Academy for a week long session. The academy enabled me to learn more details about state and federal laws pertaining to animals, effectively conduct investigations and for court procedures, understand zoonotic (transfer to humans) disease control, animal behavior, animal handling techniques and how to safely and humanely use equipment.*

*It has taken some time to get the animal control program up and running. The Sheriff's office and I have been very busy establishing an office, (which is next door to BRHA on Fairgrounds Rd.), designed a uniform, purchased a vehicle and obtained equipment. So far already this year, Ravalli County Sheriff's Office has responded to approximately 298 animal calls. This means approximately three calls per day, including weekends. I personally have responded to 85 calls as of April 19th, 63 calls in March and 35 in February.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. Please feel free to email me with any questions; tloya@ravallicounty.mt.gov, give me a call or stop by my office. The office phone number is 406-363-7720.*

Welcome Teresa....

Vicki



# Yellow Dog Coffee

## 1st Edition Community Coffee

# "Lady" is a Lady

Lady was adopted out last year from BRHA to a home that didn't work out for her. When she came back to us this spring, we noticed that something just wasn't quite right with her eye. The lense in her eye had detached (a luxated lense) and was sitting in front of the iris instead of behind it. This condition causes pressure to build up in the eye resulting in a great deal of pain. The options are to remove the lense or remove the eye; either procedure is a major decision.

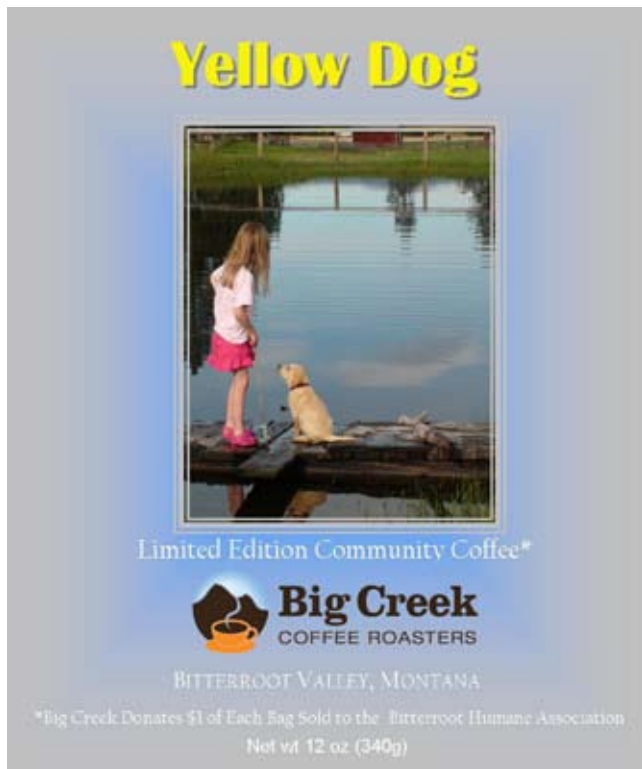
Dr. Boer of Companion Pet Clinic helped us get in touch with Dr. Bill Yakely, Veterinary Opthamologist in Spokane. Having worked with Dr. Yakely before, it didn't surprise us that he offered us a considerable discount on surgery. His Senior Resident was assigned to the case.

Lady and I traveled to Spokane for the surgery funded by the Dani Fund. The Dani Fund is BRHA's Fund established to care for more advanced (& expensive) medical procedures that can give an animal a new chance at a healthy life.

Lady was an angel on a difficult journey. A long ride through a bad late blizzard took us six hours and then no dinner! Early the next morning at the Animal Eye Clinic, she underwent many tests. Two 4th-year veterinary students learned from Lady; you just don't see luxated lenses every day. During their keen examinations, Lady was an impressive patient. Surgery took place immediately and we picked her up at 4:30 with a brand new cone on her head and lot of pain medication. She had no interest in food for the next few days, so the many medications were quite a challenge. The Lady slept quietly through the night in the motel and her recheck the next morning was perfect. Three weeks of medications three times a day followed.

Lady's eye is healed now, her eye pressure is normal, she sees beautifully; her eye was saved and it is beautiful. She has a slight discoloration on one side due to the loose lense irritating the back side of the cornea. We still hope it will clear up over time and it does not impair her vision; but we informed her she would have to give up knitting and find a new hobby.

Thanks to the Dani Fund we are able to provide this surgery. She now needs a forever home. Lady is a Lady; she has perfect house manners, walks on leash as gently as you can imagine, she knows to sit and stay, and keep you company and love you with unending loyalty. She is simply perfect and I promise she will be your best friend.



Big Creek Coffee Roasters, established in the fall of 2010, is a small, neighborhood roaster of fine specialty coffees. Big Creek offers freshly roasted coffees from the world's great growing regions, including unique single estate varieties, signature blends, and certified organic coffees.

Big Creek Coffee was founded by long time Bitterroot resident Randy Lint as the culmination of a 20+ year search for the perfect cup of coffee. A former attorney and current coach of the Hamilton high school boy's soccer team, Randy is always happy to talk coffee and can usually be found at the roastery, located at 1091 S. 1st St. in Hamilton. For more information, please call 369-6217 or visit their website, [www.bigcreekcoffeeroasters.com](http://www.bigcreekcoffeeroasters.com).

Yellow Dog is Big Creek Coffee's first of a series of limited edition Community Coffees. \$1 from the sale of each bag is donated to the Bitter Root Humane Association.

Yellow Dog can be purchased on the Big Creek website, at the Roastery, or at the Hamilton Farmer's Market.

Northwest's Finest Hunting Preserve



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# BRHA's 2011 Volunteer of the Year

## Christina Orru

In February of 2008 a young lady named Christina Orru became a volunteer at BRHA. She came to Hamilton from the island of Sardinia off the coast of Italy to do post graduate work at Rocky Mountain Lab. Growing up in Italy, Christina was always an animal lover. She constantly picked up strays and tried to find homes for them. There are no animal rescue organizations in Italy that promote adoption, animal population control and humane education. The government has pounds where strays are taken and may live their entire lives in a kennel. Christina was very impressed when she learned about BRHA and our mission to find caring and loving homes for animals of all kinds, as well as promote animal care, training and education.

Christina joined a group of volunteers at BRHA that take the dogs out to play every afternoon. In addition to being very dependable and reliable, she shows a willingness to learn, take on new tasks and help in every way she can. She became a BRHA Mentor to help train new dog walkers. She spent time learning how to train and reach out to deaf dogs. No matter what task she is asked to do she does it with enthusiasm and cooperation. When a young dog named Dani came to us in 2009 with a deformed leg she took on a campaign to raise money for the operation needed to save his leg. This campaign and Dani's surgery resulted in the creation of the BRHA Dani Fund for future advanced medical procedures.

Christina will eventually return to Italy and she would like to take the knowledge and experience she has gained volunteering for us to start a similar organization there.

We thank Christina for all of her extra effort in helping the animals at BRHA and for doing it all with a graceful smile and a gentle heart.



*Christina & Louie training & waiting for his forever home.*

# Adoption "Tails"

Hi BRHA...

I just thought I'd drop you a line, telling you how much I like the most recent edition of the BRHA newsletter. I read the success stories and thought I'd give you one more to add to your collection.

I have two dogs. The oldest is Zeus, who is a 6-year-old Siberian husky that I adopted from a shelter in Philly, in January of 2007. The second is Shadow, who is a lab mix that I adopted from the BRHA shelter as a pup, two years ago. Both dogs are doing fine, and are regulars at Hamilton's dog park. Both have gotten reputations there. Shadow is the love sponge that is OCD when it comes to tennis balls. Zeus, on the other hand, is known for being a "talker", who goes up to people and grunts and growls as they rub his coat and make a fuss over him.

I have tried to make regular contributions to the Association and am pleased to see that things seem to be going well. I think that you folks do an invaluable service for the animals of the valley by providing a temporary home for animals in need of shelter. I don't know how much feedback you get from the rest of the community, but you get a "Well done!" from me. Thanks for your efforts on behalf of the animals.

Mike McKee"

## www.bitterroothumane.org

Our website has been reborn. Big Red Barn Design has built us a brand new, dynamic, beautiful website! All of us in the sheltering business know how important an internet presence is in today's world. Our two Airedales were adopted this week to a forever home in Washington thanks to the internet and the Airedale connections it created. These dogs came in separately and fell in love with each other; those Airedale games were very fun to watch!

Check out our newly minted website @ [www.bitterroothumane.org](http://www.bitterroothumane.org) and appreciate Mike's web design talent! He has made his custom site management system (to make changes and additions) available as his donation to the BRHA.



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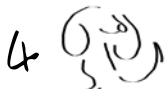


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# Sandy...a big, wonderful dog

## Kitchen Mother, Staff Hugger, Blood Donor

She resides in the kitchen at BRHA. She rules with a quiet paw, generally not moving too much, just keeping a loving eye on all the other beings in her space, animal and human. She's happiest on her quilted nest, or on the Kuranda bed under a table. She is a slightly overweight (with her diet she now actually has a waist) 4-6 year old Plott Hound/Mastiff cross who came to BRHA as a stray.

She is not at all fond of cats but very tolerant of other canine creatures. She is the current mother hen. And the shelter staff has learned that if you need a little cheering up during the day, some time spent hugging on and being hugged by Sandy can do the trick. She simply generates peacefulness.

A couple of weeks ago, staff received a call from Dr. Joe Melnarik from Valley Pet Clinic asking if we had "a big dog that we could borrow for a couple of hours". It turns out that one of their

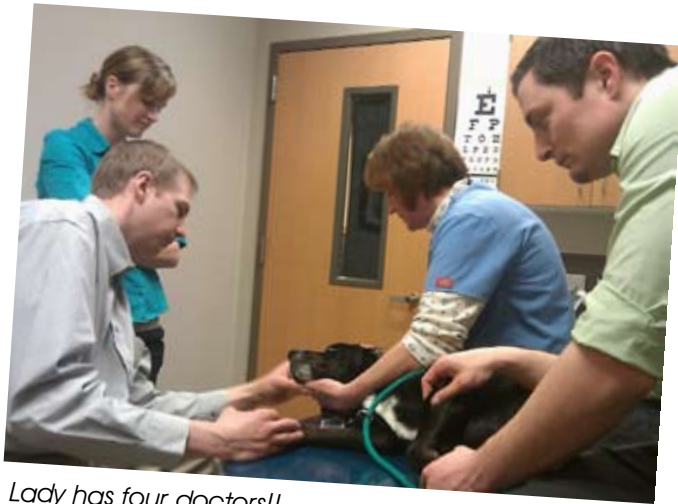
clients required a blood transfusion and they needed a donor. Sandy seemed to fit the bill. At the clinic, she was so mellow that they were able to draw the blood that they needed without any anesthetic! She just sat there with the needle in a vein in her neck and let them take what they needed. What a dog!

Sandy is quite content at the shelter with her friends, but don't you think she has earned a couch of her own?

We think so!



## Lady's journey .....




Lady has four doctors!!

Contribute to the Dani Fund through BRHA on Paypal: sheltering@brvmontana.com or to BRHA, 262 Fairgrounds Rd., Hamilton, MT 59840



Lady's surgery was funded by the Dani Fund, created to enable advanced medical procedures for BRHA animals.

**House of Insurance**

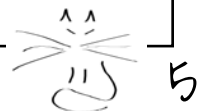
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# Memory of a smile

On Tuesday, March 22, we held our annual membership meeting at the First Presbyterian Church in Hamilton. We are especially appreciative to the church for use of their very nice, comfortable community room. For those of you who weren't there, I would like to catch you up on some of the business and development of BRHA as an organization. First, at the meeting, we were pleased to welcome two guests, Randy Lint of Big Creek Coffee Roasters and Ravalli County Animal Control Officer, Teresa Loya. As mentioned in this newsletter, Randy has packaged his special "Yellow Dog" blend, and we got to sample (and buy) some that evening. Teresa gave a very informative presentation about the requirements and her background for the position, as well as describing some of her accomplishments in the job so far. We thank both of them for being with us.

At the meeting we gave tribute to two of our board members who's "term limits" had expired. Phil Meis and Beth Lowitt have given spirit and sweat for the last nine years, working for and supporting the mission of the shelter. Although they are no longer board members, I am confident we haven't seen the last of them! We truly thank them for their years of hard work and dedication.

Late last summer, the board began looking into information regarding accounting audits, what they involve and what the costs are. The firm of Galusha, Higgins and Galusha gave a presentation regarding levels of audits and what they thought we might need, should we feel the need to proceed. By December we had enlisted their help with an "agreed upon procedure" review for A Forever Home, the cost of which had been donated. That review is now complete. At the same time, GHG agreed to be available for a review at any level we might need, but suggested that it be done after tax season, 2011, for ease of completion as well as a possibly lower fee.

At the March board meeting, after much discussion, the board voted to amend our bylaws. BRHA Bylaws, Article V, Section 3 now states "The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than (7) nor more than (13) directors, with (5) directors constituting a quorum."

In February several board members attended a Board Development Workshop, sponsored by the Missoula Non-profit Association. We found it very professionally presented and inspiring. With the help of ideas derived from the meeting, the board will begin structuring some organizational improvements and implementing them over time as we go forward. They include: 1. Job descriptions for each board member, 2. Board self evaluations, both as a board and as individuals, 3. Board succession planning, 4. Board training, 5. Board committee development, including community folks as members.

In late March we were taken totally by surprise by the Bitterroot Chamber of Commerce. At their annual meeting and fundraiser, the Chamber honored us by designating us the "2011 Best Community Asset". We are truly appreciative of this honor and the respect from the organization and community inherent in the award. Many thanks are due to all the Chamber members.

So, now that we are all caught up on business, please take a look out our newly completed website, our connection on Facebook, and plan to come in and visit us and have a look at our furry residents, the real reason we do all of this. I am keeping my fingers crossed for a warm sunny spring for all of us and our animals.

Kathy

Did you have some of those tasty mini-donuts "Mugs & Sinkers" during the last four years of the Ravalli County Fair?

When I met Jim & Sally LePan at the Rebecca Farms Event (Kalispell) in '05 I was immediately captured by their enthusiasm for their Mini-Donuts and the cause they were supporting. I approached them about coming to the Ravalli County Fair in support of the Bitter Root Humane Association. This was their hobby, making donuts, meeting people and supporting a worthy cause.

They traveled from their home in Kalispell to our fair in '06 and have given much of their profits to the Bitter Root Humane Association these last years. This was a labor of love for Sally and Jim. Sometimes I think Jim gave away more donuts than he sold because he enjoyed the smiles he got as he visited with people and gave them the magic of the gift of those little donuts, warm from the fryer. They came back year after year, with high praises for our fair....they said they had so much fun they just couldn't miss it and they loved Gary & Rusty on the fair staff.

On Sunday, I received the awful news that Jim had passed just three weeks ago, very suddenly without warning or any existing medical condition. Sally called me and I am sure she made many such calls as there were no strangers to either one of them. To know them is to know an instant friend. Jim arrived at the fair office every morning with donuts for the fair staff. He was equally generous with spreading those wonderful calories to the shelter staff.

Sally and her daughter and son-in-law are rolling this spring with the donuts but she doesn't know what the future holds. I sure hope we see her coming back to spend the week with us.

We extend our most sincere sympathy, good wishes and love to Sally and her family. Jim & Sally are dear friends to all of us at BRHA and always will be. I will forever remember his beautiful, open smile. Thanks for the gift Jim.

Vicki

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# Memorials

BRHA gratefully acknowledges the support and generosity of so many who wish to honor the memory of loved ones. We are humbled by the dedication and love of animals that those departed loved ones exhibited, and are truly grateful to their families for suggesting that memorials be sent to the BRHA for the benefit of the animals.

## In Loving Memory of Pets ...

To: Boojum  
To: Ben  
To: Rosebud  
To: Rocket Boer

From: Janet Lee & Ted Libby  
From: Pam Matter  
From: Herb & Diane Howe  
From: Diane & Kent Myers  
From: Kerry Lavender  
From: Kathy Good  
From: Vicki Dawson & Sheila Dingmann

To: Sammi, a trooper to the end  
To: Micki, the Maine Coon  
To: Tori  
To: Daisy & Wayne  
To: Chase

From: Linda Packet  
From: his family  
From: The Millers  
From: Jenny Laing  
From: Val Crossland, Riley & Lakota  
From: Diane & Kent Myers

To: Dolly & Bear  
To: Soliel  
To: Bruno  
To: Grundy, Chi Chi, Ginger  
To: Tapi  
To: Zoey Tayler

From: Kathy Good  
From: Kathy Good  
From: Beth Robbins  
From: Demaris & Roger Moore  
From: Frank & Bobbie McCauley  
From: Sue & Dave McCormack  
From: Diane Myers  
From: Jenny Laing  
From: Vicki Dawson

To: Father of Ellen Condon  
To: Lillian Pearce  
To: Joel McCoy, brother of Kathy Peterson

From: Jean Comer  
From: Jean Miller  
From: Vicki Dawson & Sheila Dingmann  
From: Diane & Kent Myers  
From: Vicki Dawson

To: Jack Dyer  
To: Jim LePan

## In Honor of ...

Ann Hardenberg Birthday

From: Alice & John Sutherland

# Foster Homes

## Be Part of the Solution

For more information & FAQ on our Foster Program, please visit our website: [www.bitterroothumane.org](http://www.bitterroothumane.org).

If you are interested in becoming a part of our Foster team, please send an email to Susan Behrman:

[marknsusan@accessmtwildblue.com](mailto:marknsusan@accessmtwildblue.com).

## In Loving Memory of People ...

To: Dorothy Holland  
To: Becki Frankforter  
To: Doris Moe  
To: Barbara Wiley

From: Anne Frugoli  
From: Beth Robbins  
From: Beth Robbins  
From: Dennis & Chickie LiBetzow & Leo & Mary Howe

To: Dave  
To: Betty A. Burns  
To: Beverly \*Smaus) Richards  
To: Lyle Morgan

From: Anna Robbins  
From: Michele Potter  
From: Alice Foster  
From: Dorothy Allen  
From: Jim & Virginia Simmons

To: "Slim" Warren  
To: Donald White  
To: Beverly Schwan  
To: Sarah Schumacher

From: Marilyn Warren  
From: Marilyn Warren  
From: Patty Rosa  
From: Sean Killenkark  
From: Carol Hinman  
From: Jeanette McKee  
From: Bonnie Jean Thurman  
From: Jim & Katie Carlson

To: Doris Mee  
To: Charlie Waliser

From: Jim & Virginia Simmons  
From: Jenny Laing  
From: Kathy Good

To: Barbara Kaspers  
To: Barbara "Bobbie" DeHaan

From: Donna Williams  
From: Corvallis City Sewer Dist.  
From: Residential Appraisal Service  
From: Don & Lori Rudolph  
From: LM & Colleen Powell

To: Laura Johnson  
To: John Bruce Shoemaker

## BRHA e-newsletter

Don't miss out on the BRHA e-newsletter. It is put together every other month or so with the latest stories and news of our best animal friends!

Sign up to receive the e-newsletter via your email and/or.... save some paper and postage and receive the quarterly newsletter sent to you as a .pdf file to your computer. Sign up by sending me an email with your request to receive the e-newsletter and/or the regular quarterly newsletter via email.

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## PASS IT ON

to a friend when you are finished reading your newsletter. By increasing readership and awareness you will be performing a valuable service for the animals we're trying to help. You can assist us in cutting costs by advising us of your change of address or duplicate mailings. We would appreciate your help in updating our records.

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## New Membership & Renewal Application

Every membership helps the animals & gives you a voice in our association!

Please check your address label for date your membership expires. 2011 dues are due now. Thank You!

Seniors: \$7 each \_\_\_\_\_, Individuals: \$15ea \_\_\_\_\_, Business: \$30 \_\_\_\_\_, Pets: \$2ea \_\_\_\_\_.

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- Please send me information on the Kennel/Cage Sponsorship Program
- Please have the Volunteer Coordinator Contact Me
- Please contact me with information on the Foster Program